

Flume Construction Completed In 1927

Remember the wood flume?

Crown Zellerbach was proud of its "labor-saving" device, built in 1927 to move both wood and water. What many Camas "youngsters" remember is their mother's stern warning not to play around it.

Construction started on the flume in the summer of 1927 and it was put into operation in December of the same year, with most of the work done by regular mill crews.

The flume was 1800 feet long from the wood mill to the chipper room and a total of 2300 feet to the grinder room, anchored on concrete piers.

Red cedar was used for the structure, except for a 60-foot steel truss over the Spokane, Portland & Seattle railroad tracks and the flume trough, which was of three-sixteenths inch steel plate.

An eight-inch pipe furnished the water for the flume and was connected to the mill main on the north side of the grinder room and was carried under the caps of the flume structure

to the head or wood mill end of the flume.

At the head of the conveyor was a watchman or checker who controlled the water flow and checked and counted the blocks of wood as they dropped into the flume.

About 3300 gallons of water per minute were delivered to the head of the flume, for delivery to the chipper room. This was reduced to about 2500 gallons per minute when wood was delivered to the grinder room.

Before the installation of the flume, wood was hauled from the wood mill to the chipper room and the grinder room by means of 40 tramway cars. The wood had to be loaded by hand on to the cars at the wood mill and then unloaded at the chipper room and into the grinder room by hand.

The mill said the flume eliminated excessive handling of the wood, cut accidents and was a big factor in improving mill cleanliness.

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